

II  
STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



---

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
REPORT**

**for the Year ended  
31st December, 1971**

---

H. R. Morrison, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.



TO: THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, of the  
STAFFORDSHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General, was 3,420, being 580 less than in 1970.

The total number of births was 62, there being one death of a child under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 16 compared with 18 for England and Wales. No maternal deaths occurred during the year under review.

Deaths totalled 41 (32 in 1970) giving a death rate of 12.5 which is higher than that for England and Wales at 11.6.

Principal causes of death were - 21 heart disease (11 in 1970), 4 from cancer (6 in 1970), 9 from vascular lesions of the nervous system (7 in 1970).

Twenty-eight cases of infectious diseases, 26 of these being measles, were notified during the year compared with 80 in 1970. Vaccination against measles is available, and it is recommended that all children should be immunised at the age of 14 months, either by their family doctor, or at the Child Health Clinic.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, HOUSING AND WATER SUPPLY.

These matters are dealt with by the Public Health Inspector in his report which follows at the end of my report. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to him and other members of his staff for their co-operation and help.

H.R. MORRISON.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health Dr. H.R. Morrison M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Public Health Inspector C.D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS...

Area of District in acres	.....	97,630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate	...	3,420
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,529
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1971	...	230,400
Sum represented by penny rate	...	£2,228
Rate in £ levied at 1st April, 1971	...	71½p

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year was 62 (Birth Rate 19.50) as against 60 in 1970 (16.20). The Birth Rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is higher than that for the rest of England and Wales (16.0).

Birth Rate Comparisons

Live Births per 1,000 population, as adjusted  
by Comparability Factor.  
Still Births per 1,000 total live and still births.

	<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Still Births.</u>
1971 Startforth Rural District	19.50	00.00
1970 Startforth Rural District	16.20	8.33
1971 England and Wales	16.00	12.00
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
<u>Analysis of Births</u>	M F	M F
<u>Live Births.</u>	...	...
Legitimate	28 31	34 24
Illegitimate	2 1	1 1
	<u>30 32</u>	<u>35 25</u>

Illegitimate Live Births = 5.00

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births = 17.00

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births = 00.00

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks) = 16.00

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week) = 00.00

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) = 00.00

<u>Still Births.</u>		<u>1971</u>		<u>1970</u>	
		M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	-	-	-	5
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>

### Deaths

#### Maternal Mortality & Infantile Mortality

No maternal deaths were registered in the District during the year. One infant death was registered.

#### Infantile Mortality Comparisons per 1,000 Live Births.

Startforth Rural District 1970	...	00.00
Startforth Rural District 1971	...	16.00
England and Wales, 1971	...	18.00

### Deaths from all causes.

During 1971 there were 41 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 32 in 1970. The death rate (12.50) being higher than that for England and Wales (11.6).

#### Death Rate Comparisons - Per 1,000 Population as Adjusted by Comparability Factor.

Startforth Rural District 1971	...	...	12.50
Startforth Rural District 1970	...	...	8.30
England and Wales, 1971	...	...	11.6

CAUSES OF ALL DEATHS - 1971, compared with 1970

	1971		1970	
	M	F	M	F
Malignant Neoplasm - Oesphagus	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	-	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	-	-	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	1	2	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	1	-
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasm	-	1	-	-
Ishaemic Heart Disease	13	8	4	6
Other forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	5	2	5
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	-	1	-
Other diseases of Digestive System	-	1	-	-
Influenza	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito Urinary System	-	-	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total all Causes	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>

Number of Deaths from Seven Chief Causes, Rates & Comparisons with Previous Year.

	Per 1,000 Population			
	1971		1970	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
Cancer	4	1.16	6	1.50
Respiratory Disease	-	-	3	.75
Heart Diseases	21	6.43	11	2.75
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non Pulmonary	-	-	-	-
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	0.58	1	.25
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	<u>9</u>	<u>2.61</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1.75</u>
	<u>36</u>	<u>10.78</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>7.00</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 28 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases during 1971, as against 80 in 1970.

Analysis of Infectious Diseases and Comparisons with Previous Year.

		1971 <u>No.of Cases.</u>	1970 <u>No.of Cases.</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	-	8
Measles.	...	26	66
Whooping Cough	...	2	-
Infective Jaundice	...	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>
		<u>28</u>	<u>80</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.

No cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1971.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

No deaths from this disease were registered in the District in 1971 as in 1970.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946

Sections 22, 23, 24 and 25

Care of Mothers and Young Children, Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing.

The Infant Welfare Clinic held monthly at Barningham continued during the year. The District Medical Officer was in attendance as well as the District Nurse/Midwives.

The following number of visits paid to patients in the district by the Nurse/Midwife during 1971 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1970 :-

<u>Category.</u>		<u>1971.</u>	<u>1970.</u>
Domiciliary Midwifery	...	631	987
Home Nursing	...	2,789	2,797
Health Visiting	...	1,856	2,966

Section 27 Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver-Foreman, one Shift Leader and six Driver-Attendants.

Section 28 - Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Meals on Wheels.

A meals on wheels service is operated in the area and is organised by the W.V.S. 2,211 meals were served during 1971.

Section 29 - Domestic Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the North Riding County Council and during 1971 14 cases received help, as compared with 8 in 1970 the analysis and comparison with 1970 being :-

		<u>Cases</u>		<u>Hours</u>	
		<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
<u>Category.</u>					
Domiciliary Midwifery	...	-	-	-	-
Chronic Sick	...	14	8	3,723	1,829
Sick Housewife	...	-	-	-	-
		<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3,723</u>	<u>1,829</u>

CHIROPODY

The North Riding County Council employ a chiropodist to provide the service for aged people, expectant mothers, physically handicapped, and mentally disordered. Sessions are held at Bowes, Cotherstone and Romaldkirk as and when required.

The Public Health work of the district has been carried out as usual by Mr. C.D. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector, who has compiled the remainder of this report.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections for Nuisances only	29
Total Number of Nuisances Found	9
Number Abated by Informal Action	8
Number Abated by Statutory Action	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year 1971 the Council continued, satisfactorily, to operate a service for the collection of refuse throughout the area. Only a small number of the most remote and inaccessible properties, mainly hill farms, are not served. In the main the frequency of collection is weekly although some isolated properties are visited less often and those farms situated at a distance from public roads are asked to bring their container to the roadside for collection instead of receiving the usual back-door service.

Only one refuse tip is operated by the Council; unfortunately this is at one end of the district and necessitates a number of fairly long hauls. So far as possible the Ministry of Health recommendations for controlled tipping are followed but there is a scarcity of suitable covering material.

The service employs 2 vehicles and four men and casual labour is employed to assist during holiday periods etc. The total annual cost is £6,279.

The septic tank emptying service continues to operate satisfactorily and is greatly appreciated by those house owners whose premises are not served by public sewer and who get a free annual cleansing of the tanks by the Council's Contractor. During 1971 a total of 251 tanks were emptied at a cost of £564.

Satisfactory arrangements exist for the collection of bulky articles of refuse, such as disused furniture, although there is sometimes a delay of a week or two while arrangements are made for a special collection. Abandoned cars are dealt with under the Civic Amenities Act but the numbers so far encountered are not excessive.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Factories in which sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	13	18
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	3	11
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	3	7

Cases in which Defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences					
Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	-	-	-

Outworkers.

One outworker is registered for the making, etc, of wearing apparel.

OFFICE SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Class of Premises.	Number of Premises registered during the year.	Total Number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	-	2	2
Retail Shops	-	2	2
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	6	6
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	10	10

The number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises was 18.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following Establishments are registered under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960.

Category.	Number of Premises	Number complying with Regulation 16.	Number to which Regulation 19 applies	Number complying with Regulation 19.
Grocer and General Store	15	15	15	14
Cafes and Restaurants	3	3	3	3
Butchers Shops	1	1	1	1
Hotels and Inns	16	16	16	16
Licensed Clubs	4	4	4	4

Fifteen of the above premises are registered to store ice cream for sale.

Three privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 228 visits for meat inspection were made during the year. The tables overleaf show the details of the carcasses inspected during the year.

The total weight of meat condemned was 611 lbs, a very small proportion of the whole and an indication of the high quality of the animals slaughtered.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND EXAMINED - 1971.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	367	-	290	1112	101	-
Number inspected	367	-	290	1112	101	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	3	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	-	2	2	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	3.27%	-	1.72%	0.36%	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

### CAMPING AND CARAVANNING.

The total number of licensed caravan sites at the end of the year 1971 was 26. With four exceptions these sites are for very small numbers of caravans (less than five) and little difficulty is experienced in their control. In addition there are four sites operating under exemption certificates from the Caravan Club.

There is a site for 200 holiday caravans near Startforth and two for 60, one near Mickleton and one near Ovington, and one at Thorpe for 32. All these are intended for holiday use only and occupation of vans left on site is prohibited during the winter months. During the year the Council acquired the former Railway Station Area at Middleton in Teesdale and obtained planning permission for its use as a caravan site. Negotiations were completed for its lease to a private operator for its development and use beginning in 1972.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area and only one location which is used within the limits for unlicensed sites. No difficulties occurred although there is, clearly, a shortage of camping site accommodation.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council now possess satisfactory sewerage systems at Cotherstone, Mickleton, Barningham, Startforth, Romalldkirk, Bowes, Boldron, Ovington and Hutton Magna.

There is only one village, Lartington, where sewerage facilities are not provided and for which provisional plans were made in the Council's post-war programme. All other communities are small and scattered and the sewerage of these could only be considered necessary if urgent public health problems arose and were felt to outweigh the economic consideration involved.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplies throughout the area are under the control of the Tees Valley & Cleveland Water Board. No new schemes were implemented during 1971 and the scheme to provide a new supply to Brignall and an improved supply to Barningham did not start as soon as hoped and will not now be available until late in 1972.

A total of 29 samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, of these 13 were unsatisfactory, largely from private supplies. Advice as to remedial measures was offered in these latter cases.

In addition to the foregoing the Tees Valley & Cleveland Water Board carry out regular routine examinations of all supplies under their control, both bacteriologically and chemically. No chemical analyses have been made on the samples taken by the Department and I am indebted to the Water Board's Chemist for the information given overleaf which represents the average figure of a number of chemical analyses of the public supplies. Figures given are expressed as parts per million except where otherwise stated.

One thousand and eighty four houses are connected to the public mains in the area and a total of four hundred and forty five are dependent on private supplies of varying sorts, primarily springs. An analysis of these figures is given in the second table overleaf.

#### HOUSING.

The Council owns ninety-six houses and twenty four bungalows.

With the exception of the village of Startforth, there is little demand for further Council house building in the district; much of the need is satisfied by the casual vacancies arising in existing dwellings.

Following the policy of acquiring and improving suitable houses, the Council commenced work on the remaining station houses at Cotherstone and Middleton-in-Teesdale.

During the year applications have been approved for both standard and discretionary grants. 21 standard grants were approved and 25 discretionary grants. The total number of grants approved since the introduction of the schemes is 413. The average figure paid during the year for standard grants was £106 and for discretionary grants £566.

#### RODENT CONTROL

During the year a total of 43 treatments for the elimination of rats and mice were carried out using the principles laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.



PROPERTIES SUPPLIED WITH WATER

FROM PUBLIC MAINS SUPPLIES

Parish	Population (Estimated)	No. of Dwellings	No. of Dwellings with Mains Water	Population Supplies with Mains Water (Estimated)
Barforth	76	34	10	22
Barningham	155	69	57	128
Boldron	90	40	25	56
Bowes	353	158	99	222
Brignall	52	23	2	5
Cotherstone	535	239	215	482
Egglesstone Abbey	16	7	6	13
Gilmonby	43	19	-	-
Holwick	99	44	15	34
Hope	11	5	-	-
Hunderthwaite	110	49	13	29
Hutton Magna	84	38	23	52
Lartington	119	53	29	65
Lunedale	110	49	-	-
Mickleton	380	170	128	287
Ovington	116	52	52	116
Rokeby	85	38	9	20
Romaldkirk	185	83	79	177
Scargill	36	16	-	-
Startforth	660	295	287	643
Wycliffe-with- Thorpe	105	47	35	78
TOTAL	3,420	1,528	1,084	2,429

TEES VALLEY AND CLEVELAND WATER BOARD  
Analyses of Water Supplies  
Averages for the year 1971  
Results expressed in parts per million.

	Lartington Gravitation Supply (37 Samples)	Barnard Castle Urban District Reservoir Startforth Village (5 Samples)	Hundarthwaite (7 Samples)	Holwick (7 Samples)	Bowes - Boldron (7 Samples)	Barningham (7 Samples)
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.07
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.04	0.08
Nitrite Nitrogen	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.41	0.40	0.6	0.38	0.38	0.50
(Oxygen absorbed from Potassium in 4 hrs. at 27°C	3.5	0.2	0.2	4.4	0.2	3.1
Colour (Hazen)	30	6	2	35	3	40
Turbidity as Silica	2.0	3	1	3	1	2
pH	7.5	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.2	7.6
Free Carbon Dioxide	5	8	27	9	31	9
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	30	70	155	80	300	100
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	30	70	155	80		100
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	30	15	10	15		15
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	60	85	165	95	210	115
Calcium Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	50	70	135	85	155	95
Magnesium Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	10	15	30	10	55	20
Chlorides as Cl	12	10	10	11	18	11
Silicates as SiO <sub>2</sub>	2.5	8	10	4	16	7
Iron as Fe	0.14	0.25	<0.04	0.05	0.12	0.07
Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	100	120	205	130	380	150
Sodium as Na	4.6	6.7	7.8	7.9	61	7.3
Potassium as K	0.9	1.2	2.3	0.4	22	1.0
Conductivity at 20°C (micromhos)	135	170	300	185	550	225
Total No. of Bacteriological samples taken	428	26	27	28	26	27
No. of above showing no coliforms	428	25	26	20	26	25

< = less than



